

behalf of all active and senior judges aged 65 or older who are enrolled in FEGLI “the full amount of any increases in the cost of the judges’ insurance imposed after April 24, 1999.”

## Information Technology

In 2001, Administrative Office information technology initiatives significantly improved the Judiciary’s ability to collect, process, analyze, and share information.

Agency staff made available to courts blanket purchasing agreements and other competitive contracts for courts to acquire computers and related equipment software. The contracts can be used by all courts and offer streamlined options for buying automation equipment.

### Case Management/Electronic

#### Case Files (CM/ECF) .....

The Case Management/Electronic Case Files system, which permits courts to receive electronic documents and to maintain electronic case files, is bringing improved public access to federal court records while helping reduce costs for litigants and courts. As documents are filed electronically, they are provided simultaneously to attorneys of record and unrepresented parties, through the PACER system, and they can download or print and file them however they choose.

By the end of fiscal year 2001, 67 courts had begun implementing CM/ECF, a joint effort of the courts and the Administrative Office. More than 10,000 attorneys had filed documents electronically, and more than 500,000 cases involving more than two million documents are in CM/ECF systems, saving valuable court resources and providing a dramatically improved level of public access to court records.

#### New E-mail System .....

Administrative Office and court representatives collaborated with contractors to implement Lotus Domino/Notes, the Judiciary’s new e-mail system. By the end of the fiscal year 2001, the D.C. Circuit, Court of Federal Claims, Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, Second Circuit, Third Circuit, Fourth Circuit, and the Administrative Office all had migrated successfully to the new system. Implementation will be complete Judiciary-wide in spring 2002.

Lotus Domino/Notes is acknowledged as the leading client server e-mail and groupware product. It is stable and offers many add-on features. It also protects the Judiciary’s investment in earlier systems by allowing for integration with those systems.

To ease the transition to the new system, the Administrative Office e-mail migration team developed a J-Net site for systems managers, court unit managers, and end users.

### Courtroom Technology .....

In fiscal year 2001, equipment, wiring, and training needed for installation of video evidence presentation systems, video-conferencing systems, and electronic means for taking the record were provided for more than 100 courthouses. Also, chief judges now have the authority to procure such equipment, as well as design and installation services to retrofit existing courtrooms.

These efforts are being facilitated by the oversight of a courthouse/courtroom technology council at the Administrative Office to ensure coordination by the space and facilities program of all projects involving courtroom technology and telephone installations, wiring and cabling installations for data networks, and installations of the Federal Judicial Television Network satellite services.

The Administrative Office is developing an online computer-based training program on procurement of courtroom technologies and design and installation of audiovisual systems.

#### Courtroom Technology Conference

A three-day conference held in June at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building brought together representatives from the courts, the Federal Judicial Center, the Administrative Office, and courtroom technology design and installation firms. The conference focused on service, costs, and consistency in the delivery of services to the courts. An immediate benefit was improved communications among contractors and Judiciary staff.

### Computer Security Enhancement .....

Administrative Office staff began developing a comprehensive plan for improving computer security throughout the Judiciary. While under development, efforts will continue to aggressively



*A three-day Courtroom Technology Conference at the Administrative Office in June brought together all contracted nationwide courtroom technology design and installation firms and representatives from the courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and the Administrative Office's major program offices. The Technology Conference focused on service, cost, and consistency in the delivery of services to the courts; providing a forum for discussion of those issues necessary to develop policies, budgets, and procedures that will deliver a consistent product. An immediate benefit of the Technology Conference was improved communications among the contractors and the Judiciary. Improvements are already in the works that will affect funding, training, and design work, and may result in changes to the U.S. Courts Design Guide.*

address information security issues by promoting use of best practices, assessing effectiveness of existing controls, ensuring installation of software updates and security patches, continuing use of automated security tools, and increasing awareness of automated security issues.

### **Accounting Systems . . . . .**

In fiscal year 2001, Financial Accounting System for Tomorrow (FAS<sub>4</sub>T) was installed in 16 districts and two circuits. At the end of the fiscal year, the system was operating in 35 districts and three circuits. Twenty additional installations are anticipated for fiscal year 2002, bringing the percentage of courts using FAS<sub>4</sub>T to over 50 percent.

Alternatives were analyzed for providing federal courts with a system that provides effective financial management over civil, criminal and cash receipting activities. The system, known as Civil/Criminal Accounting Module (CCAM), will be designed so that civil and criminal accounting capability resides within the Financial Accounting System for Tomorrow (FAS<sub>4</sub>T) while an interface will be developed to integrate the cash receipting component with FAS<sub>4</sub>T. It is scheduled to be fully operational in all districts in fiscal year 2005.

### **Law Clerk Hiring System . . . . .**

The Administrative Office further developed the Federal Law Clerk Information System, a web-based

application allowing prospective applicants to locate opportunities to serve as a federal judicial law clerk using a national database accessible through the Internet. During 2001, its first year of operation, the site averaged 1,200 inquiries a day—more than 1,800 during the peak law-clerk hiring season.

**Jury System** .....

The Judiciary is in the midst of implementing an electronic Jury Management System that streamlines jury operations. At the end of fiscal year 2001, 74 districts were using the system. Complete deployment is expected by June 2002.

**Infrastructure Improvements** .....

The migration of the Data Communications Network to frame relay technology is meant to reduce cost; improve availability of data, legal, and Internet access, and support the increasing demand for more

capacity. The migration was completed in the Eleventh, Fourth, and Second Circuits; it is installed and ready for activation in the First and Third Circuits; and work is in progress in the Fifth and Eighth Circuits. Expedited installations are taking place in specific locations to meet higher-capacity demands as Lotus Notes and CM/ECF are installed.

***Automated forms***

An additional 100 automated forms were placed on J-Net this year, making a total of nearly 300 available for Judiciary use. Most of the forms are in WordPerfect format to allow users to save and modify them for local use.

Also, agency staff began converting forms courts use to collect and submit data from a paper format to an electronic one, which will increase efficiency and data accuracy.